

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Stripper assembly as claimed in claim 13 4, wherein said ~~first and second~~ connecting bars are connected to said ~~first and second~~ slides at first end portions thereof.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Stripper assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein a further set of ~~first and second~~ connecting bars is connected to said ~~first and second~~ slides at second end portions thereof.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Stripper assembly as claimed in claim 13 7, wherein said first transmission means comprises:

a first pivoting lever pivotably mounted between said first and ~~second slides~~ third connecting bars, a first end of said first pivoting lever being coupled to said first ~~slide~~ connecting bar, and a second end of said first pivoting lever being coupled to said ~~second slide~~ third connecting bar, and

wherein said second transmission means comprises a second pivoting lever pivotably mounted between said second and said fourth connecting bars, a first end of said second pivoting lever being coupled to said second connecting bar, and a second end of said second pivoting lever being coupled to said fourth connecting bar.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Stripper assembly as claimed in claim 13 7, wherein said first transmission means comprises:

a first toothed face coupled to said first ~~slide~~ connecting bar;

a second toothed face coupled to said ~~second slide~~ third connecting bar, said first and second toothed faces facing each other; and

a first gearwheel engaging said first and second toothed faces,

and wherein said second transmission means comprises:

a third toothed face coupled to said second connecting bar,

a fourth toothed face coupled to said fourth connecting bar, said third and fourth toothed faces facing each other, and

a second gearwheel engaging said third and fourth toothed faces.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) Stripper assembly as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 13, wherein said ~~actuation means~~ actuator comprises:

a first cam follower connected to said first ~~slide~~ connecting bar, and a second cam follower connected to said second connecting bar, and

~~a first cam in which said first cam follower is~~
movable for moving said ~~first~~ inner slide of said first slide pair in said first direction, and

a second cam in which said second cam follower is movable for moving said inner slide of said second slide pair in said second direction.

13. (New) A stripper assembly for a mold comprising:

at least one first slide pair, and at least one parallel second slide pair symmetrically arranged about a

centerline bisecting a mold face, each said slide pair having an outer slide and an inner slide;

a first connecting bar connected to an inner slide of said first slide pair, a second connecting bar connected to an inner slide of said second slide pair, a third connecting bar connected to an outer slide of said first slide pair, a fourth connecting bar connected to an outer slide of said second slide pair, said first and second connecting bars moving in a direction towards said centerline when opening said slide pairs;

an actuator operatively coupled to said first and second connecting bars to move (i) said first connecting bar connected to said inner slide of said first slide pair in a first direction, and (ii) said second connecting bar

~~connected to said inner slide of said second slide pair in a~~
second direction that is opposite of said first direction;

a first transmission means operatively connected to said first connecting bar and said third connecting bar, for transferring movement of said first connecting bar to movement of said third connecting bar in said second direction; and

a second transmission means connected to said second connecting bar and said fourth connecting bar for transferring movement of said second connecting bar to

movement of said fourth connecting bar in said first direction.

14. (New) A stripper assembly as defined in any one of claims 13, 8, 9 or 11 wherein said actuator is coupled to inner ends of said first and second connecting bars.